

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 544

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF ISTVAN DEAK

REFS: A) BUDAPEST 3818 B) STATE 236632

USIA FOR IEE

1. AMBASSADOR AND POLOFF CALLED ON VARKONYI OF MFA FRIDAY TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING EXPULSION OF DEAK, AND TO CLARIFY GOH PLICY TOWARD PARTICIPATION OF HUNGARIAN/AMERICANS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD VARKONYI THAT ONLY INFO GIVEN US ABOUT DEAK RELATED TO ACTIVITIES IN NY. WE COULD HARDLY CONSIDER THIS SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION FOR GOH HAVING TAKEN DRASIC STEP OF EXPELLING DEAK ON 72/HOUR NOTICE, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE WAS DUE TO RETURN TO THE US IN JANUARY. VARKONYI STATED THAT DEAK EXPELLED FOR HAVING "COLLECTED INFORMATION DETRIMENTAL TO HUNGARIAN STATE". (PREVIOUS NOTIFICATION HAD SIMPLY SAID "FOR ACTIVITIES"). HE WOULD NOT GO INTO GREATER DETAIL.

3. AMBASSADOR NOTED WE HAD BEEN TOLD GOH WAS NOW ASKING US NOT TO SEND ANY "ILLEGALLY EMIGRATED" HUNGARIAN/AMERICANS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THIS RAISED TWO QUESTIONS -- WHETHER MOVE AGAINST DEAK WAS ELEMENT BROADER CONSTRICTIONS THAT

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COULD AFFECT OTHER EXCHANGEES AND WHETHER GOH HAD INDEED

TAKEN POLICY DECISION AGAINST ALLOWING ANY SUCH AMERICANS TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM (OBSERVING THIS STRONGER THAN USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH TOLD WHEN HE VISITED).

4. VARKONYI REPLIED THAT DEAK CASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A SPECIAL ONE AND THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE EFFECT ON STATUS OF OTHER US SCHOLARS OR STUDENTS IN HUNGARY. VARKONYI SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD REASONS WHY WE FELT POST-WAR HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS NEEDED TO BE INCLUDED IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BUT THAT GOH WOULD MUCH "PREFER" THAT THEY NOT BE INCLUDED. READING FROM PAPER PREPARED FOR PREVIOUS ORAL PRESENTATION ON DEAK, HE SAID THAT INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS "WOULD LIKE" US NOT TO INCLUDE HUNGARIAN/AMERICANS WHO HAD EMIGRATED ILLEGALLY. VARKONYI COMMENTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE POST-1949 HUNGARIANS WHO DID NOT COME INTO THIS CATEGORY AND THEN USED PHRASE THAT IT "WOULD BE DESIROUS" IF THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED. VARKONYI CONCURRED WHEN AMBASSADOR SAID PRESENTATION TO KEOGH HAD REFERRED TO US SENDING FEWER SUCH PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT HUNGARIAN POSITION AGAINST POSTWAR HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN EXCHANGES IS NOT QUITE AS FIRM AS INDICATED IN FIRST CONVERSATION. HOWEVER, THEY WILL CLEARLY GIVE ANY CANDIDATES OF THIS SORT CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND MIGHT INDEED REJECT ALL OR MOST OF THEM. WE WOULD EXPECT CANDIDATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORICAL FIELDS TO HAVE THE MOST DIFFICULTY. ALTHOUGH HUNGARIANS THEMSELVES CONNECTED DEAK CASE WITH BROADER ISSUES BY RAISING EXCHANGE MATTER IN CONNECTION WITH HIS EXPULSION, WE ARE INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE TO VARKONYI'S DENIAL THAT THIS REFLECTS A START OF MORE GENERALLY RESTRICTIVE POLICIES AGAINST THE EXCHANGEES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD EXCLUDE POST-WAR HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS FROM CONSIDERATION, THOUGH SOME BROADENING OF BASE OF NOMINATIONS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROVE NECESSARY. (THIS YEAR HUNGARY HAD TURNED DOWN ALL FIVE POST-WAR HUNGARIAN NOMINEES FROM IREX --EXCEPT DEAK--BUT LATER RESTORED TWO. CURRENT IREX BALANCE IS THREE HUNGARIAN-BORN, FOUR US-BORN, ONE CZECH-BORN, INCLUDING DEAK.)

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6. AMBASSADOR HAS LONG STANDING APPOINTMENT TOMORROW TO SEE ROSTA OF KKI, DURING WHICH HE WILL DISCUSS THIS ISSUE FURTHER. THEREAFTER WE WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATION ABOUT COUNTER STEPS AS REQUESTED REFTEL B. OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT EXPANSION OF CONTACTS IS SO MUCH IN OUR INTEREST THAT WE SHOULD NOT RISK SHARP CURTAILMENT THROUGH STEPS AS STRONG AS BEING CONSIDERED BY IREX.

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFO AS TO WHAT
PLANNED UNDER "PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED GRANTS INVOLVING
COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES AND CONFERENCES". (QUOTE FROM
KASSOF DRAFT). ALSO REQUEST THAT DEPT POUCH COPY OF
CURRENT IREX-KKI AGREEMENT.
PEDERSEN

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